

Special Work Session June 14, 2004 minutes

(Monday, 20 September 2004) - - Last Updated (Monday, 20 September 2004)

Special Meeting/Work Session Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2004A Special/Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Annex commencing at 7:30 pm.

Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica, Councilwoman Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Councilman Ryan, Councilman Trachtenberg
Council Absent: None
Also Present: Fran Lehman
Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, CFO
Mayor Laurence Cherchi called to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilwoman Dwarica led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi stated that the conditions of the Open Public Meeting Act have been met by notice placed on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall and notices sent to the official newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi advised of the exits throughout the building and asked the Acting Administrator if the Fire Department could submit in writing the law that reflects the exits must be stated at every meeting.

Mayor Cherchi congratulated Councilman Puzzo and Councilwoman Heveran on their victory in the primary election.

Mayor Cherchi stated Judge Harris has advised the individual council members listed in the Kestenbaum litigation are entitled to legal representation at the taxpayer's expense.

1. Presentation
Ms. Lexa Merson of the Streetscape Committee stated the gazebo has been vandalized and the police have been notified. Ms. Merson does not believe that gazebo project should continue if the project will not be respected. Ms. Merson presented the Council with projects that have not been addressed in the Phase I Beautification project for the Downtown area. These issues should be addressed in Phase II or Phase III. Banners should have been placed on the lampposts. Ms. Merson spoke of enhancements to the downtown area that the Borough should consider purchasing. These include fences, clocks, etc. Ms. Merson suggests that a landscaper should be hired to take care of the flowers.

2. Approval of Minutes

Special/Work Session June 7, 2004 Council President Dwarica added on page 5, Section C "so that the Borough can" on the second sentence. Councilman Trachtenberg changed 'federal guidelines' to the 'manufacturer's guidelines'. The second portion of the citizens comments should reflect that 'the people posted on the taxpayer's website' when Ms. Peters was speaking. Motion to adopt minutes moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Vote on minutes: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Minutes Adopted.

Closed Session June 7, 2004. Motion to adopt minutes moved by Councilman Trachtenberg, seconded by Council President Dwarica. Vote on minutes: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Minutes Adopted.

3. Comments from the Public

Mr. Domenico Susini of Faithful Works spoke on behalf of the Local Assistance Board. The Board is requesting additional funds since welfare duties are performed as well as social service duties. Council President Dwarica has requested that the Local Assistance Director provide to the Council details of what has been provided to the residents of the Borough. Mayor Cherchi stated this topic will be further discussed and reviewed. Mr. Susini questioned if his property can be removed from the Master Plan. Mayor Cherchi stated the Planning Board has the authority to remove the property from the Master Plan and further advised the property should remain in the Master Plan, the property has been in the Master Plan for the past 20 years.

Mr. Frank Raucci of 78 Hawthorne Terrace commended Ms. Lexa Merson on her presentation. Mr. Raucci advised of the cell antenna ordinance meeting that took place and stated the Acting Administrator needs to be involved in the process. The governing body needs to decide on the location for the Sports Boosters Carnival. The County Park can be used if the Borough will provide a letter of indemnification. Councilman Puzzo stated the County is to draft the indemnification

letter. The Borough needs to decide and move within the next 48 hours. Councilman Puzzo is to work with the Acting Administrator to resolve this topic with the County.

4. Resolutions Mayor Cherchi mentioned that the Ambulance Corps is looking to receive reimbursement from the insurance company for a new ambulance as noted in Resolution 04-168. Motion to adopt Resolution 04-168 and 04-169 moved by Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Vote on resolutions: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Resolutions Adopted.

04-167 Authorizing Auction of Impound Vehicles. Councilwoman Mitrani noted the auction is scheduled for June 23rd and questioned if an administrative fee could be added. The Borough Clerk stated the administrative fee has been added by the police department. Councilwoman Mitrani stated she would like to add an additional \$50 to each vehicle. Council discussed, an additional fee can not be added due to timing but will be considered for the next sale. Motion to adopt resolution moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. Vote on minutes: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Resolution Adopted.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Revaluation Orders from the County Tax Assessor

The Acting Borough Administrator stated she agreed with the Borough Assessor's comments. The Acting Administrator agrees that the Borough should appeal the revaluation order. The Borough Attorney is to check the time frame and the council is in agreement that an appeal should be started.

6. Comments from the Public No One Spoke

Motion to enter Closed Session moved by Councilman Ryan, seconded by Councilman Puzzo. All in favor, no objections noted.

Motion to exit Closed Session moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. All in favor, no objections noted.

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. All in favor, no objections noted. Inasmuch as there was no further discussion to take place before the Mayor and Council, this meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Johnson

